

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 5: change "functionally" to --covalently--.

Cancel claims 18-24.

REMARKS

The Official Action dated January 6, 2000 and references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. In view of the amendments presented herewith and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Status of the claims:

Claims 1-7 and 10-17 are pending in this application. Claims 8 and 9 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 18-24 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants note the examiner's remark that an amendment directing cancellation of claims 18-24 was not formally made in Applicants' response to the Restriction Requirement (Paper No. 9). Applicants' present amendment accordingly directs cancellation of those claims.

Claims 1-6 and 10-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. The examiner asserts that the term "functionally linked" is ambiguous because it is not readily apparent what is meant by "functionally linked", and that such a term in its broadest sense could encompass embodiments wherein the adjuvant and the immunogen are not physically linked.

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Goodman et al., J. Immunol. 129: 70-75 (1992). According to the examiner, if the broadest definition of the term "functionally linked" is used, combined with the open claim language "comprising", the Goodman et al. disclosure of C5a as an adjuvant to